



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember George Leventhal

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2004

Contact: Valerie Ervin 240-777-7973

LEVENTHAL PROPOSES “CLEAN ENERGY REWARDS” PROGRAM FOR COUNTY USERS OF NON-POLLUTING, RENEWABLE ENERGY

Council Vice President George Leventhal today introduced legislation to establish a “Clean Energy Rewards” program to give incentives to County residents who use clean, renewable energy.

“County residents who use clean, renewable energy help conserve fossil fuels and combat global warming,” said Councilmember Leventhal. “They pay about two-and-a-half cents more per kilowatt hour over standard rates and they pay the County’s energy tax. This program would give them about half a cent per kilowatt hour back – just about the equivalent of the County’s energy tax.”

Leventhal estimated that perhaps 2000 to 3000 County residents could be eligible for the awards program and would receive either a direct County payment of up to \$60 per year or the same amount credited against their utility bills. Wind power, energy from landfill gas, and solar energy are among the energy sources that would be eligible for the rewards program.

Local utilities and environmentalists have voiced support for the proposal, which is the first such legislation in the nation.

Joining Councilmember Leventhal at the event were Gary Skulnik of the Clean Energy Partnership, A. Glenn Simpson of PEPCO Energy Services, and Mike Tidwell of Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

“We are happy to be working with Council Vice President Leventhal and the Council on this initiative,” said Simpson. “It just makes good sense.”

Last year, Leventhal led the fight to require Montgomery County government to purchase at least five percent of its energy needs from clean renewable energy sources. Already more wind turbines have been erected in West Virginia to meet the County’s needs, said Leventhal. # # #

N
E
W
S
R
E
L
E
A
S
E